TENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

JAN 17 2003

In re the Application of

Akira SHIMOKOHBE et al.

Application No.: 09/556,795

Filed: April 25, 2000

Group Art Unit: 2829

Examiner:

A. Sarkar

Docket No.: 106096

A THIN FILM-STRUCTURE AND A METHOD FOR PRODUCING THE SAME

SMALL ENTITY REQUEST FOR **CONTINUED EXAMINATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.114**

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

For:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.114, Applicants hereby request continued examination and entry and consideration of the December 23, 2002 submission. The above-identified application was filed on or after June 8, 1995. Thus, entry is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.114(d).

Attached hereto is our check no. 138192 in the amount of \$\infty\$ \$375.00 as payment of the fees set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e). The Director is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 15-0461. Two duplicate copies of this page are enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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JAO:HNS/cfr

Date: January 17, 2003

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375.00 OP

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION

Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our

Deposit Account No. 15-0461